

What is claimed is:

1 1. An apparatus, comprising:

2 a) means (100) for producing a tactile sensation for a user of
3 the apparatus in response to a control signal; and

4 b) a control means (106), responsive to a tactile sensation
5 pattern signal and responsive to an instructions signal for
6 instructing how to interpret a tactile sensation pattern, for
7 providing the control signal;

8 wherein the tactile sensation is expressive of information
9 intended to be communicated to the user of the apparatus and
10 exclusive of information indicating a call is waiting to be
11 answered.

1 2. An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising means (140a)
2 for providing the instructions on how to interpret a tactile
3 sensation pattern.

1 3. An apparatus as in claim 2, further comprising means (140b
2 140c 140d 140e) for creating a tactile sensation pattern and at
3 least temporarily storing the tactile sensation.

1 4. An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the means (140b 140c 140d
2 140e) for creating a tactile sensation includes:

3 a) means (140b) for composing and editing a tactile sensation;

4 b) a data store (140e) for storing a plurality of tactile
5 sensation patterns; and

6 c) means (140d) for selecting a tactile sensation pattern from
7 the data store.

1 5. An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the means (140b 140c 140d
2 140e) for creating a tactile sensation includes:

3 a) means (140c) for downloading and editing a tactile
4 sensation;

5 b) a data store (140e) for storing a plurality of tactile
6 sensation patterns; and

7 c) means (140d) for selecting a tactile sensation pattern from
8 the data store.

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1 6. An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the means (100) for
2 producing a tactile sensation is selected from the group
3 consisting of: an eccentric electric motor, an intermittent
4 source of air flow, an electric signal, a razor-type linear
5 vibrator, a solenoid, a piezoelectric material, means for shaking
6 a component of the apparatus, means for sliding back and forth a
7 component of the apparatus, means for opening and closing a flip
8 of the apparatus, and means for moving a sliding component back
9 and forth.

1 7. An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the means for producing a
2 tactile sensation is electrically coupled to the control means
3 but is physically attached to the user of the apparatus.

1 8. A wireless terminal including an apparatus as in claim 1.

1 9. A communication system including a base station and also
2 including an wireless terminal as in claim 9.

1 10. A method for use by a wireless terminal, comprising:

2 a) a step (401), responsive to a tactile sensation pattern and

3 responsive to instructions on how to interpret a tactile
4 sensation pattern, of providing a control signal; and
5 b) a step (402), responsive to the control signal, of producing
6 a tactile sensation sensible to a user of the mobile phone;
7 wherein the tactile sensation is expressive of information
8 intended to be communicated to the user of the apparatus and
9 exclusive of information indicating a call is waiting to be
10 answered.

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